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Current Events

[Edited by Clarence W. Gleason, Roxbury Latin School, Boston, Mass., for the territory covered by the Association of New England and the Atlantic States; Daniel W. Lothman, East High School, Cleveland, Ohio, for the Middle States, west to the Mississippi River; Walter Miller, the University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo., for the Southern States; and by Frederick C. Eastman, the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, for the territory of the Association west of the Mississippi, exclusive of Louisiana and Texas. News from the Pacific Coast may be sent to Miss Julianne A. Roller, Franklin High School, Portland, Ore., and to Miss Bertha Green, Hollywood High School, Los Angeles, Cal. This department will present everything that is properly news—occurrences from month to month, meetings, changes in faculties, performances of various kinds, etc. All news items should be sent to the associate editors named above.]

Colorado

The University of Denver.—Mrs. Ella R. M. Milligan, of the Latin department, sends us the February 14 issue, or "Saint Valentine's Number," of *Acta Latina*, a sheet issued semi-occasionally by the students of the Latin department. The articles bearing titles are: "Who Was St. Valentine?" "Roman Origin of St. Valentine's Day"; "Roman Customs Clinging to St. Valentine's Day." Very creditable translations and imitations in verse of Horace and Catullus fill the second page of the two-page sheet.

Illinois

Bradley Polytechnic Institute.—The readers of the *Classical Journal* may be interested in a somewhat novel entertainment which furnished the program for a recent meeting of the Classical Club at Bradley Polytechnic Institute. This particular feature of Roman life has probably not been presented before in this way. The evening's entertainment took the form of an *Auctio*, the sale *sub hasta* of some of the personal property of Marcus Tullius Cicero. An attempt was made to carry on the sale in a way similar to that actually used in antiquity. The public crier summoned citizens. The audience was composed of friends of Cicero, and had money with which to bid, *denarii* and *sesterces*. As the articles were put up for auction by the *magister auctionis* the bidding was spirited. An accurate account of the sales was kept. A *toga praetexta* had been made by two college girls, and this article and a *corona* of Cicero's were put up first. Two slaves displayed the garment, making comments upon the material, the cut, the purple stripe, the *sinus*, etc., finally draping it correctly upon the person of one of the slaves so that the buyer might see its effect. Garments belonging to the trousseau of Tullia, Cicero's daughter, were displayed in like manner. These and other articles made by members of the Club afforded an opportunity to present in a most effective way pictures of

Roman life, correct ideas of Roman dress and manners, and some glimpses of home life.

Two Greek slave girls were offered for sale after an exhibition of their ability as dancers. A slave boy with special accomplishments was also put up at auction. One of the articles offered was a beautiful scroll, a manuscript of Xenophon's *Anabasis*, made by a student in Greek. This, together with two other scrolls, was a sample of Cicero's large library, which the auctioneer stated would be for sale in the future. The entire program excited the liveliest interest, and the facts brought out will not soon be forgotten.

The program was prepared and directed by Mrs. Katherine Walters Sutton, of the Latin department. The Latin proclamation which was placed upon the bulletin board some days beforehand, the various officers required for the sale, with the Latin phrases which they used, the list of articles made with description in each case, and other features of the program are perhaps items which classical teachers may wish to secure, and a copy can be obtained for a small sum.

Indiana

Evansville.—Miss Paxson's play, *A Roman Wedding*, was produced recently by the Latin department of the Evansville High School before an audience of almost a thousand students and friends.

Richmond.—On Friday, March 1, at the regular Friday morning Auditorium meeting the Latin department presented Dr. Schlicher's play *Tirones*.

The characters took their parts well and spoke with precision and expression, which delighted the audience of pupils, parents, and friends.

The play has a special appeal at this time and consequently called forth loud applause. Heavy dark-red draperies at the back of the stage furnished a beautiful background for the white togas, and produced an artistic effect. The costumes were made by the girls of the department, under the supervision of Miss Donna Parke, assistant in Latin.

Iowa

An interesting and enthusiastic conference of the Latin teachers of Iowa was held at the State University on March 8 and 9. Following is the program: "What Points Most Need Strengthening in High-School Latin?" Miss Frances E. Sabin, University High School, Madison, Wisconsin; "How Can the Attitude of the Superintendent Be Made More Favorable to Latin?" Dean W. H. Russell, College of Education, University of Iowa; "The Relation between 'Vocational' and 'Cultural' Latin," Professor Charles N. Smiley, Grinnell College; "The Equipment of the High-School Latin Teacher," Professor F. H. Potter, University of Iowa; "The Relation between Latin and English," Miss Ellen Geyer, University High School, Iowa City; "What Assistance Can Be Given to the High-School Teacher of Latin at 'Long Range'?" Professor O. E. Klingaman, director of Extension Division, University of Iowa.

Helpful discussions followed the addresses. The whole series of addresses and discussions was made to converge upon one idea, which was presented by Professor F. C. Eastman, head of the Latin department of the University. This was the establishment of an organization with a central station which shall helpfully reach and co-operate with the Latin work in the state. Through a series of questionnaires the Latin department has secured and tabulated varied and minute information concerning numbers in Latin classes and conditions affecting Latin work in every school in the state where Latin is taught. This has been made possible through the helpful co-operation of the Extension Division. With this conspectus as a guide it is proposed to furnish to the schools such accessory resources as the state provides and will provide.

The Latin department has already done much through the help of the Extension Division in the way of circulating lantern slides on Roman private life, Caesar, Vergil, mythology, etc., among the high schools of Iowa. These travel constantly from one high school to another. The Extension Division sends out thousands of lantern slides from the various departments, but the demand for the Latin slides has been greater than for those of any other department. There are ten sets in all, and many of them have had to be duplicated as many as four times to supply the demand. About 1,500 slides are in constant circulation. These slides have been circulating for four years. Last year they were shown 277 times in 59 different schools. Up to the present date this year they have been shown 432 times in 129 different schools. The statistics gained from the questionnaires show that the number of Latin pupils in the Iowa high schools (372 schools) had increased from 9,694 in 1914-15 to 16,123 in 1917-18.

Next year it is proposed to send out in the same way and through the same medium sets of small high-school Latin libraries, charts, maps, photographs, model questions and systems of instruction, also informative literature on Latin values. It is likewise proposed to issue a series of bulletins for Latin teachers. In all this work the College of Education and the Extension Division are co-operating with the department of Latin.

The chief purpose of the conference was to devise some plan whereby all these resources may be made contributory to a larger organization, which shall enlist the co-operation of all the Latin forces in the state, and whereby all the resources in the state shall be directly utilized to give help where help is needed, and particularly to encourage teachers of high-school Latin to make better preparation for their work. A committee was elected and is now making plans to this end.

Massachusetts

In spite of a temperature ranging from ten to fifteen degrees below zero a hundred members of the Classical Association of New England gathered at the Fogg Museum, Cambridge, on February 2, to attend the annual meeting of the *Eastern Massachusetts Section*. The program follows: "A Word of Welcome,"

Albert S. Perkins, Dorchester High School, president of the section; "The Questionnaire of the Boston Council of Ancient Languages," Miss Louise Adams, East Boston High School; "A Preview of Vergil," Dr. D. O. S. Lowell, Roxbury Latin School; "The Stupidest of Losses," Dr. Josiah Bridge, Westminster School, Simsbury, Connecticut; "Latin in Modern Education," Dr. Payson Smith, Massachusetts Commissioner of Education; "The Comprehensive Latin Paper of the College Entrance Examination Board," Professor Edward K. Rand, Harvard University; Lantern Talk, "Athens under the Turks," Dr. James M. Paton, Cambridge.

The following officers for 1918-19 were chosen: President, Professor Edward K. Rand, Harvard University; Secretary, Clarence W. Gleason, Roxbury Latin School; Executive Committee: Rev. Willard Reed, Browne and Nichols School, Cambridge; Frederick A. Tupper, Brighton High School; Professor George H. Chase, Harvard University; William H. Sylvester, Boston English High School; Professor A. H. Rice, Boston University.

Clark College.—Professor H. D. Brackett writes: "I wonder whether you could find a place under 'Current Events' for the following quotation from one of our alumni who since graduation has been actively engaged in a manufacturing business: 'Touching Greek language and literature and all things Hellenic I cherish this heritage from my Alma Mater most dearly of all. It furnishes me with a standard of judgment and a constant guide in art, however manifested, and in the daily conduct of life. I shall ever strive to defend and extend the power, the sweetness, the light of Hellenic culture.' This from a man who has been an assistant superintendent and sales manager in a manufacturing concern seems to me interesting evidence."

Ohio

The Columbus Latin Club met on Saturday, March 2, at Hotel Chittenden. After the luncheon, at which nearly sixty members and friends were present, the following program was given: Mr. Henry S. Lupold, Crestview Intermediate School, Columbus, read a paper on "Classroom Methods and Devices in Beginning Latin"; Mr. M. Jay Flannery, Central High School, Hamilton, gave an address on "The Classics"; Mrs. Clara F. Milligan, North High School, Columbus, gave a brief report of the December meeting of the Archaeological and Philological Association held in Philadelphia. The following statement shows that the Latin teachers of the Columbus High School have not overlooked their duty, in their enthusiasm for the classics, to help their country in its time of need.

The secretary of the club, Mrs. Edith Smith, has been granted a leave of absence from her work at North High School in order that she may assist the government in the sale of Thrift Stamps in the schools of Ohio. Mrs. Smith early in the year initiated a plan of interesting her own classes in buying stamps. The state committee, which was looking for some original plan of work in the schools, heard of her novel devices and urged her to work with them.

Mrs. Smith is now the state president of Beta Tau Sigma ("Buy Thrift Stamps") fraternities and sororities.

Warren.—On December 22 the first-year students in Latin of the Warren High School gave the following program: song, "Terra de te mea"; recitation, "Jacobus Horner"; oral theme, "The *Saturnalia*"; recitation, "The Pome of a Possum"; song, "Milites Christiani"; reading, "The Story of a Roman Boy"; recitation, "Pyramus et Thisbe"; song, "Domus, dulcis domus."

On February 1 the students of the Virgil and Cicero classes, under the direction of Miss Virginia Reid, successfully presented the Latin play, *Soccus Malorum*. Much interest was taken in this by the entire school, and so spirited was the action that even those who knew no Latin found pleasure in the performance.

Pennsylvania

West Chester High School.—The Senior class organized early in the fall a Classical Club, calling themselves the *Aeneadae*, their motto, "Perge modo," their club song the "Integer Vitae" ode of Horace. Great interest has been shown by the members of the club at each meeting. "Vergil," "Rome, Past and Present," "Roman Holidays," "Roman Mythology and Religion," have been thus far the topics carried out by the program committee.

At the first meeting Vergil, impersonated by Charles Rankin, returned to Rome to greet his old friends Augustus Caesar and Maecenas.

Before the "Rome, Past and Present," program was given the members of the club and Miss Florence A. Fonda, of the Latin department, who has the general oversight of the club, arranged in pleasing fashion pictures of ancient and modern Rome. In fact, the walls of the Latin classroom were almost covered with postcards in color and sepia, as well as other larger prints and pictures.

The December meeting, held at Miss Fonda's home, was a combination of the social and the literary. The topic of the literary program was "Roman Holidays." The *Floralia*, *Parentalia*, *Liberalia*, and *Saturnalia* were explained in detail. A marriage between two members of the club was solemnized in true Roman style.

At the January meeting slips of paper were drawn by lot. Ten were blank, while on the other ten were mythological topics to be reported on at the next meeting. Russell Gilmore, a Sophomore, who has been greatly interested in the Ariovistus story, gave so splendid an account of the Germans in France in ancient days, relating it so well up to the present struggle, that he was asked to repeat it before the whole school.

The classical section of the Sophomore class presented in costume Miss Horner's play entitled *The Conspiracy of Orgetorix*, which appeared in the October, 1917, *Classical Journal*. The normal section of the class gave a very lively and interesting debate on the topic, "Resolved that Ariovistus Had as Much Right to Gaul as Julius Caesar."

Much real interest in Latin has been awakened in West Chester during the last three years. Three years ago the department numbered but ninety students in five small classes. This year there are two hundred students in eight large classes.

Members of the club have also given recently a little play entitled *Civitas Archiae Poetae Graeciae*. The playlet was written by Miss Blanche McMullen, a pupil in the department. The dramatis personae are Archias, Cicero, Lucullus, Catulus, Numidicus, Hortensius, friends of Archias, and Gratius, the accuser of the poet; also Publius, servant to Lucullus.

Philadelphia.—The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the *Classical Association of the Atlantic States* will be held at the Drexel Institute, Philadelphia, on Friday and Saturday, May 3-4.

Wisconsin

At the *Latin Section of the Southern Wisconsin Teachers' Meeting*, held at Madison on February 14 and 15, an informal round-table discussion was held on the following topics: (1) "Treatment of the Prose Lesson to Secure Thorough Results," led by Miss Caryl Williams; (2) "The Treatment of the English-Latin Exercise in Latin I," led by Miss Grace Cady and Miss Ella Kneller; (3) "Some Practical Suggestions for Solving the Problem of Varying Ability," led by Miss Frances Sabin.

The officers elected for 1918-19 are: Miss Amelia Yeager, of Madison, chairman; and Miss Merle Baldwin, of Madison, secretary.